6/13/84 S8895-1 A

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION OF WYOMING
RESEARCH & ANALYSIS SECTION

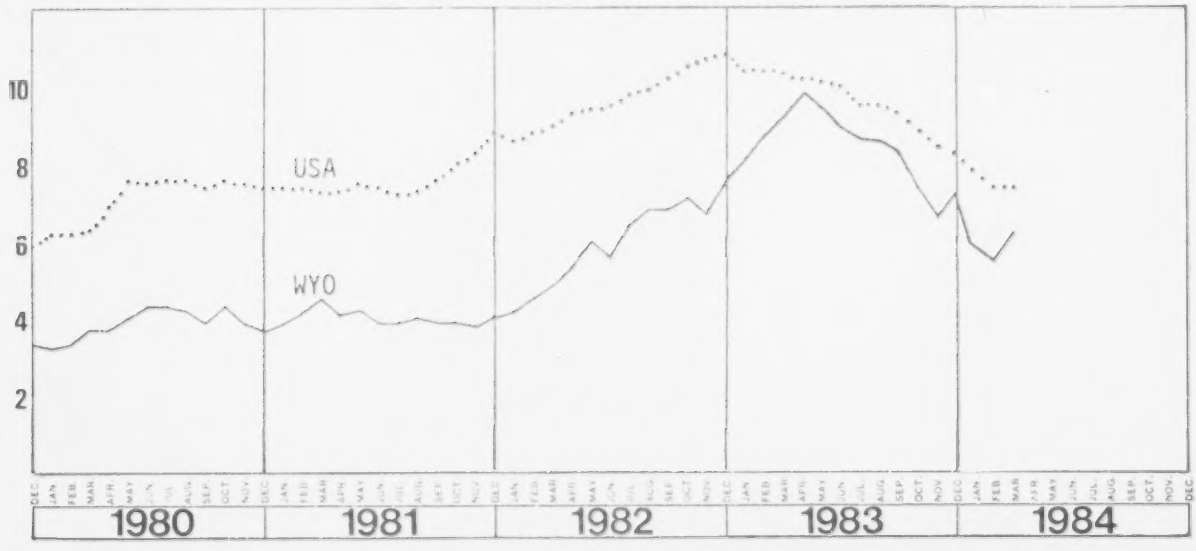
VOL. 21 NO. 1 MARCH 1984

WYOMING PER CAPITA INCOME TUMBLES

Wyoming was one of two states, along with Oklahoma, that indicated an over-the-year decline in per capita income in 1983, according to a recent release by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Wyoming dropped from a fifth place ranking among the states in 1982, at $12,211, to 15th in 1983 with $11,969, just barely ahead of the national level of $11,675. This precipitous 2.0 percent annual drop gave Wyoming its lowest ranking since 1976 when the state ranked 14th. Since then Wyoming ranked 12th in 1977, 7th in 1978 and 1979, and 5th in 1980, 1981, and 1982.

The top 10 states were Alaska, with a per capita income of $16,820; Connecticut, with $14,826; New Jersey, with $14,057; California, with $13,239; New York, with $13,146; Massachusetts, with $13,089; Maryland, with $12,994; Illinois, with $12,626; Colorado, with $12,580; and Nevada, with $12,516. Mississippi had the lowest per capita income last year, at $8,072.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S.
(Seasonally Adjusted)
1980-1984



Shaded Areas represent U.S. Recession periods determined by National Bureau of Economic Research

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment Security

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Per capita income consists of not only wage and salary disbursements (payroll income) but supplemental earnings, proprietors income, rental income, dividends, interest, and government and business payments.

WYOMING THIRD QUARTER 1983 WAGES DOWN 1.5 PERCENT

Recently compiled employer contributions data for the Third Quarter 1983 shows the statewide average weekly wage at $336, or $17,472 a year. This is for 16,300 firms employing 194,100 workers covered by the Wyoming Employment Security Act. This quarterly wage is down 1.5 percent from the $341 recorded in the Third Quarter of 1982. This unprecedented drop in wages was certainly a major contributing factor in the 1983 per capita income drop in Wyoming. The national inflation rate, consumer price index, was up 2.6 percent annually during the third quarter of last year. It could be argued, then, that the average Wyoming wage earner took an over-the-year pay cut, in terms of buying power, of around 4 percent.

Back in the "good old days" wages were up 12.2 percent annually in 1979, 12.6 percent in 1980, 10.3 percent in 1981, and 4.8 percent in 1982.

NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AT 7.8 PERCENT

U.S. unemployment continued at 7.8 percent in March, seasonally adjusted, down from 10.3 percent a year ago and the 1982 recession high of 10.7 percent. This means 2.6 million less people were jobless than a year ago. The March count was 8.8 million unemployed, the same as February. The March jobless rate for adult men was 6.8 percent, adult women 6.9, and teenagers 19.9 percent.

THE JUST ANNOUNCED APRIL RATE CONTINUED AT 7.8 PERCENT, FOR THE THIRD MONTH IN A ROW.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT AT 6.2 PERCENT

In March Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment of 6.2 percent continued below the national level, and was down from the 9.2 percent recorded in March of 1983. The unadjusted statewide rate stood at 6.8 percent, up a bit from the 6.5 percent in February but down substantially from the double digit 10.1 percent recorded a year ago.

In February, the latest data available for all the states, Wyoming ranked 41st in unemployment. Compared with the state's 1983 annual average ranking of 32nd place, it appears that unemployment is on the downturn thus far in 1984.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

On a contiguous state basis Montana, Idaho, and Utah had higher February unemployment than Wyoming's 6.5 percent unadjusted rate at 9.9, 8.6, and 8.0

percent. On the other side of the coin Colorado and Nebraska both had 5.6 percent rates and South Dakota stood at 5.4 percent. New Hampshire had the lowest rate, 5.1 percent, and West Virginia had the highest of 16.5 percent.

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE AT ABOUT YEAR AGO LEVEL

In March, the Wyoming labor force was estimated at 256,500 and remained at about last year's level, up around one percent, about half the national growth rate of 1.8 percent. Most industrial sectors indicated employment at or slightly below year ago levels with the exception of construction, retail trade, and state & local government. The annual gain in construction was noteable, at 2,100 workers and 15 percent. Highway and heavy construction projects have made this the only real Wyoming growth industry in 1984.

OCCUPATIONS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Did you know that the Federal Government, in Wyoming, employees around 7,000 workers in almost 200 different occupational skills? An occupational survey was taken in October, 1981, and lists postal mail carriers as the most predominant occupation with over 750 workers. In the professional category forester & conservation scientists numbered 280 employees, followed by biological scientists and professional nurses with around 150 workers each. In the technician category, biological science technicians had the most employment at 466, and nurses aides lead the service worker sector with 133 employees. In the production and maintenance category, truck drivers were the largest occupational group with 100 workers.

COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In March, labor force annual percentage gains were led by Park, Sheridan, Teton, and Hot Springs Counties with gains in the 6-9 percent range. Of the 23 counties, 14 indicated annual labor force gains in March and 9, including such former boom areas as Campbell, Carbon, Natrona, and Sweetwater Counties, indicated annual labor force declines.

Fremont County continued with the highest unemployment rate, for the sixth consectutive month, at 12.7 percent. Lincoln County was second at 11.1 percent, followed by Carbon at 10.3 percent. Fremont County had the largest number of unemployed, over 2,500, followed by Natrona County with 2,400 seekers for a March rate of 6.0 percent.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that one square mile in Bombay, India has about the same population as Wyoming's estimated 1982 population of 508,000. And you thought traffic was bad in Casper! Wyoming also has the second largest average ranch size, rank sixth in mineral production, third in per capita retail sales, seventh in per capita Federal Government expenditures, 50th in percent of people below the poverty level, and 27th in the crime rate.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967=100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
March 1984	307.3	302.2	331.5	244.8	198.8	306.9	374.5
Annual % Change	4.7	4.0	4.0	4.8	2.2	6.8	6.3

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
March 1984	303.3	302.1	322.9	244.1	198.0	308.9	372.6
Annual % Change	3.5	3.9	1.2	4.7	2.1	7.0	6.5

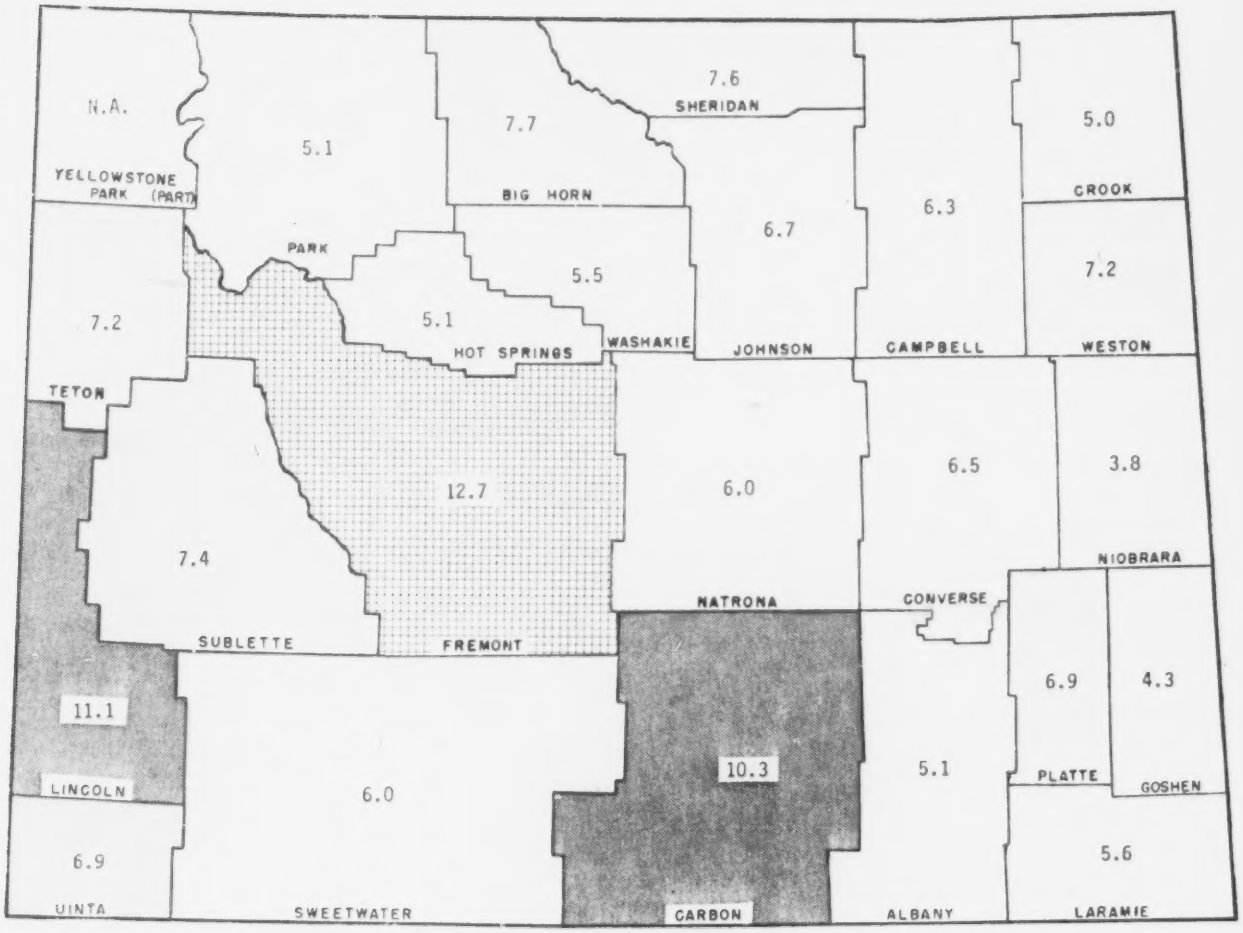
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - DENVER (1967=100)

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
March 1984	344.7	287.9	419.0	252.2	187.2	309.1	353.8
Annual % Change	4.6	6.5	2.1	4.4	- 0.2	7.9	6.0

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
March 1984	341.7	297.5	407.9	252.2	216.1	310.6	350.9
Annual % Change	4.6	6.2	3.2	4.4	1.2	7.5	6.2

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, BY COUNTY
MARCH 1984



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES:

United States....8.1
Wyoming.....6.8

Wyoming rate or lower
Above Wyoming rate, U.S. rate or lower
Above U.S. rate, below 12.0 percent
12.0 percent or higher

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

TOTAL UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
IN WYOMING
1980 TO 1983

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN AVG
1980	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.4	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.8	4.5	4.3	3.9
1981	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.5	4.0	4.2	4.0
1982	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.6	6.5	7.1	8.0	5.9
1983	9.5	10.1	10.1	10.3	9.2	8.8	8.1	7.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	7.3	8.4

6

TOTAL ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
IN WYOMING
1980 TO 1983

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN AVG
1980	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.7	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.0	[redacted] 3.9
1981	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.1	[redacted] 4.0
1982	4.3	4.5	4.6	5.2	5.5	5.5	6.2	6.6	6.7	7.3	6.8	7.8	[redacted] 5.9
1983	8.2	8.7	9.2	9.8	9.4	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.2	7.3	6.6	7.2	8.4

Table 1

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	MAR 1984 1/	FEB 1984 1/	MAR 1983 2/	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	256,453	253,004	254,470	1.4	0.8
Unemployment	17,514	16,491	25,673	6.2	- 31.8
Employed Labor Force	238,939	236,513	228,797	1.0	4.4
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) 3/	176,950	176,800	182,433	0.1	- 3.0
b. Agriculture 3/	10,286	9,613	10,475	7.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adjd.*	6.8% 6.2%*	6.5% 5.6%*	10.1% 9.2%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adjd.*	8.1% 7.8%*	8.4% 7.8%*	10.8%10.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) 4/	3.6%	3.8%	6.5%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 557.70	$ 549.91	$ 495.60	1.4	12.5
Average Weekly Hours	43.3	43.3	40.0	0.0	8.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.88	$ 12.70	$ 12.39	1.4	4.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Office	38,011	31,316	74,082	21.4	- 48.7
a. Initial	3,301	2,672	5,869	23.5	- 43.8
Weeks Compensated	33,465	28,036	75,984	19.4	- 56.0
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$4,227,633	$3,538,113	$11,512,119	19.5	- 63.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 126.33	$ 126.20	$ 151.51	0.1	- 16.6
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,726	2,951	4,845	26.3	- 23.1
Non-Ag. Openings Received	1,899	1,288	2,126	47.4	- 10.7
Non-Ag. Placements	2,248	1,884	1,846	19.3	21.8
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):	$ 493.62	$ 495.94	$ 467.74	- 0.5	5.5
Average Weekly Earnings	42.7	43.2	41.8	- 1.2	2.2
Average Weekly Hours	$ 11.56	$ 11.48	$ 11.19	0.7	3.3
Average Hourly Earnings					
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967=100	307.3	306.6	293.4	0.2	4.7
Producer Prices, All Commodities	311.1	308.8	300.6	0.7	3.5
Retail Prices of Food 1967=100	302.2	302.1	290.5	0.0	4.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Final. 3/ Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. 4/ Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provision.

Table 2

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE MAR 1984	LABOR FORCE FEB 1984	LABOR FORCE MAR 1983	% CHANGE FEB-MAR	% CHANGE MAR-MAR	UNEMPLOYMENT MAR 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT FEB 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT MAR 1983	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAR 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FEB 1984	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAR 1983
Statewide	256,453	253,004	254,470	1.4	0.8	17,514	16,491	25,673	6.8	6.5	10.1
Albany	15,455	15,133	14,674	2.1	5.3	795	707	1,098	5.1	4.7	7.5
Big Horn	4,953	4,770	5,510	3.8	- 10.1	380	303	739	7.7	6.4	13.4
Campbell	17,858	17,817	19,429	0.2	- 8.1	1,123	932	1,763	6.3	5.2	9.1
Carbon	9,478	9,494	9,946	- 0.2	- 4.7	978	950	1,303	10.3	10.0	13.1
Converse	6,964	7,026	7,123	- 0.9	- 2.2	450	452	816	6.5	6.4	11.5
Crook	2,783	2,742	2,713	1.5	2.6	140	140	236	5.0	5.1	8.7
Fremont	19,790	19,293	18,773	2.6	5.4	2,520	2,130	2,251	12.7	11.0	12.0
Goshen	7,005	6,789	6,683	3.2	4.8	304	272	486	4.3	4.0	7.3
Hot Springs	3,052	2,942	2,874	3.7	6.2	157	106	213	5.1	3.6	7.4
Johnson	4,127	4,047	3,986	2.0	3.5	275	238	413	6.7	5.9	10.4
Laramie	35,349	35,493	33,404	- 0.4	5.8	1,970	2,112	2,450	5.6	6.0	7.3
Lincoln	6,271	5,884	5,954	6.6	5.3	695	607	997	11.1	10.3	16.7
Natrona	40,201	39,651	41,051	1.4	- 2.1	2,400	2,371	4,894	6.0	6.0	11.9
Niobrara	1,536	1,519	1,462	1.1	5.1	58	63	1[illegible]	3.8	4.1	8.8
Park	13,487	12,998	12,342	3.8	9.3	684	637	919	5.1	4.9	7.4
Platte	3,943	3,886	4,141	1.5	- 4.8	273	302	407	6.9	7.8	9.8
Sheridan	14,100	13,491	1[illegible],104	4.5	7.6	1,076	1,016	1,181	7.6	7.5	9.0
Sublette	2,391	2,370	2,501	0.9	- 4.4	176	178	271	7.4	7.5	10.8
Sweetwater	20,997	21,005	22,756	0.0	- 7.7	1,258	1,300	2,384	6.0	6.2	10.5
Teton	7,368	7,294	6,925	1.0	6.4	531	597	801	7.2	8.2	11.6
Uinta	10,352	10,350	10,287	0.0	0.6	715	604	1,008	6.9	5.8	9.8
Washakie	5,307	5,326	5,081	- 0.4	4.4	292	265	480	5.5	5.0	9.4
Weston	3,690	3,682	3,749	0.2	- 1.6	265	208	433	7.2	5.6	11.5

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING 1/
(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands) MAR 1984 2/ Total	FEB 1984 3/ Total	MAR 1983 Total	% Change on Total Emp. FEB 1984 to MAR 1984	MAR 1983 to MAR 1984
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	197.5	197.9	198.5	- 0.2	- 0.5
Manufacturing	7.5	7.4	7.7	1.4	- 2.6
Durable Goods	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.2	- 5.9
Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.0	- 14.3
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	190.0	190.5	190.8	- 0.3	- 0.4
Mining	26.6	26.9	28.2	- 1.1	- 5.7
Contract Construction	15.7	15.6	13.6	0.6	15.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	16.2	16.4	16.3	- 1.5	- 0.6
Railroad Transportation	3.1	3.3	3.3	- 6.1	- 6.1
Transportation except Railroads	6.3	6.3	5.7	0.0	10.5
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.8	6.8	7.4	0.0	- 8.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.5	43.6	43.1	- 0.2	0.9
Wholesale Trade	8.8	8.8	9.4	0.0	- 6.4
Retail Trade	34.7	34.8	33.7	- 0.3	3.9
Food Stores	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	2.1
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.7	5.6	5.5	1.8	3.6
Eating & Drinking Places	12.4	12.3	12.0	0.8	3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.6	7.6	7.8	0.0	- 2.6
Services	29.9	30.1	32.0	- 0.7	- 7.0
Personal Services	1.7	1.8	1.8	- 3.6	- 5.6
Medical & Other Health Services	6.3	6.3	6.1	0.0	3.3
Government	50.5	50.3	49.8	0.4	1.4
Federal Government	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	43.8	43.6	43.1	0.5	1.6
State Government	12.8	12.9	12.7	- 0.8	0.8
Local Government	31.0	30.7	30.4	1.0	2.0

(See Footnotes End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING 1/
(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3 (Cont'd.)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	MAR 1984 2/	FEB 1984 4/	MAR 1983	FEB 1984	MAR 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to MAR 1984	to MAR 1984
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	34.2	34.2	34.0	0.0	0.6
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	32.9	32.9	32.8	0.0	0.3
Mining	5.0	5.0	5.3	0.0	- 5.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.5	4.5	4.7	0.0	- 4.3
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	- 16.7
Contract Construction	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.4	0.0	- 8.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.4	9.5	9.2	- 1.1	2.2
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 2.8	- 2.8
Retail Trade	5.9	5.9	5.6	0.0	5.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Services	5.8	5.8	5.9	0.0	- 0.7
Government	6.8	6.7	6.3	1.5	7.9
Federal Government	0.7	0.6	0.6	16.7	16.7
State & Local Government	6.1	6.1	5.7	0.0	7.0

(See Footnotes End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING 1/
(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3 (Cont'd.)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	MAR 1984 2/	FEB 1984 3/	MAR 1983	FEB 1984	MAR 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to MAR 1984	to MAR 1984
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.7	30.0	28.7	1.0	3.5
Manufacturing	1.0	1.0	1.3	0.0	- 23.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.7	29.0	27.4	- 1.0	4.7
Contract Construction	1.9	1.8	1.4	5.6	35.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.2	3.5	3.8	- 8.6	- 15.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.0	6.5	0.0	7.7
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	5.7	0.0	8.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.4	5.4	4.7	0.0	14.9
Government	9.5	9.6	9.4	- 1.0	1.1
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
State and Local Government	7.1	7.2	7.1	- 1.4	0.0

1/ Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag, establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2/ Subject to revision. 3/ Revised figures.